Greenbush Public Hearing Page 9

EEO Program Page 13

US Army Corps of Engineers
New England District

Yankee Engineer

Volume 39, No. 7 April 2003

Flowers tours project at Hanscom Air Force Base

Officials from Hanscom Air Force Base and the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers visited Building 1614, March 31, to witness a process that will magically transform an obsolete former commissary into modern, state-of-the-art office space.

"This building rehab represents much more than providing the men and women who work at Hanscom a quality work environment, it represents a partnership with a premier engineering organization and our next door neighbor, the Army Corps of Engineers," said Air Force Maj. Gen. Craig Weston, Vice Commander, Electronics Systems Command. "Together we work to serve our nation and together we serve our air men and women and our soldiers who put it on the line every day."

Photo by Mark McInerney

Resident Engineer Steve Eaton and Lt. Gen. Robert Flowers listen to Project Manager Ken Paton as he explains the project. Maj. Gen. Craig Weston, Vice Commander, Electronic Systems Command, also took the tour.

Lt. Gen. Robert Flowers, Chief of Engineers, Col. Thomas Koning, New England District Engineer, and Air Force Col. Darrell Jones, Commander 66th Air Base Wing, also toured the project that the New England District is constructing for the U.S. Air Force.

The 1,000-foot-long, 200 to 230-foot-wide building once housed the base commissary, thrift store, and large warehouse space. The Corps of Engineers will renovate the building to relocate Air Force personnel presently located in rental space off base. New England District Project Manager Ken Paton conducted the tour and briefed attendees on the history and status of the project.

Lt. Gen. Flowers indicated he was

Continued on page 11

Chief of Engineers visits District, holds Town Meeting

Lt. Gen. Robert Flowers, Chief of Engineers, made the New England District's Concord Park Office one of his many stops during his March 31 trip to New England. The Chief used the trip as an opportunity to walk around the facility and meet employees as well as hold a town meeting to give District team members an update on what is going on around the organization.

During the Town Meeting, the Chief briefed the audience on the agency's current events. The nation has three priorities, according to Lt. Gen. Flowers: Winning the War Against Terrorism; Protecting the Homeland and Revitalizing the Economy. "The Corps of Engineers is in a position to contribute in all three areas," he said.

The topics that the Chief of Engineers also discussed were the aging infrastructure of the nation and Homeland Security. "We have created a new senior service at the headquarters for Homeland Security who is the liaison with the Department of Homeland Security to help us to better define the Corps' mission for homeland security," he said. "We are being called upon more and more to apply our expertise to help other federal agencies, some states and local government."

Lt. Gen. Flowers also talked about the Fair Act and the Corps' outsourcing

Continued on page 10

Yankee Voices

Harry Palmer
Security

Sympathy

…to the family of **Maj. Gen. Richard Zeoli (ret.),** who passed away Dec. 26, 2002.

… to **Frank Fedele**, Construction/Operations, on the passing of his father, **Cosmo Fedele**, March 15.

… to **Gina Kaso**, Programs/ Project Management Division at MMR, on the passing of her father, **George Edward Kaso**, March 17.

…to **Rick Magee,** Lower Connecticut River Basin, on the passing of his grandmother, **Alice Magee**, April 12.

…to the family of GSA retiree, **Sam Stuart,** who passed away April 13.

… to the family of former Construction Representative, **H. James Anderson**, who passed away April 13. Jim worked in the Westover Office from 1992 to 1994.

... to the family of Operations Division retiree, **Gerry Roffey**, who passed away April 10.

...to the family of Planning Division retiree, **Arthur Doyle**, who passed away April 17.

Stars and Stripes to deliver personal messages from home

U.S. troops deployed to the Persian Gulf region and other overseas locations are receiving personal messages from family members, friends, neighbors, colleagues and supporters via the pages of Stars and Stripes.

"Messages of Support," a daily section that debuted March 17, gives family and friends of deployed service members a chance to pass on their greetings, words of encouragement and announcements free of charge.

"In recent weeks, we've received a significant number of e-mail messages from spouses, parents, friends and others trying to get in contact with their loved ones serving in the Persian Gulf region. Running messages from folks on the home front seemed like a natural extension of our mission," said Stars and Stripes Publisher Thomas Kelsch.

"Messages of Support" can be e-mailed to Stars and Stripes 24 hours a day at messages@estripes.com, are limited to 50 words or less, and will be printed on a first-come, first-run basis. Stars and Stripes reserves the right to screen and edit all messages and to omit any determined inappropriate.

Stars and Stripes is the editorially independent, Defense Department-authorized daily newspaper distributed overseas for the U.S. military community. It provides commercially available U.S. and world news and objective, staff-produced stories relevant to the military community in a balanced, fair and accurate manner. Stripes is currently increasing its Middle East circulation with the goal of providing one paper for every three persons stationed there. *(Stars and Stripes announcement.)*

Protect your eyes in the garden

The spring and summer months can mean heavy-duty yard work. Take some advice from the Canadian Association of Optometrists and wear protective goggles every time you use a lawn mower, weed whacker, or hedge trimmer.

Flying debris can cause serious injury to your eyes. If you wear prescription glasses, look for safety goggles that fit over them. *(Ideas Unlimited)*

YANKEE ENGINEER is an authorized unofficial Army newspaper under provisions of AR 360-1 published monthly. Views and opinions expressed are not necessarily those of the Department of the Army. Contributions from readers are solicited, but publication depends on judgment of the editor. No payment will be made for contributions. Published by the Public Affairs Office, New England District, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, 696 Virginia Road, Concord MA 01742-2751, 978-318-8777. Printed by the offset method on recyclable paper by the Defense Printing Office in Boston, Mass. Circulation 1600. The YANKEE ENGINEER can be found on the World Wide Web at http://www.nae.usace.army.mil/news/yankee.htm

District Engineer.....Col. Thomas L. Koning
Chief, Public Affairs.....Larry Rosenberg

Editor.....Ann Marie R. Harvie
Media Relations Officer.....Timothy J. Dugan
Public Affairs Specialist.....Sally M. Rigione

Commander's Corner:
The Corps' Three Priorities

by Col. Thomas L. Koning
District Engineer

I want to start this month's column with a "Thank You" to all those who made the Chief's visit last month such a success. His visit to the District allowed us to highlight our programs and the people who make us proud. I am glad we were able to recognize several of our "heroes" during his presentation. I know all of you were impressed by Lt. Gen. Flowers' Town Hall meeting last month.

I want to expound a little on the Corps' three priorities that he asked us to mention whenever we get a chance; National Security, Enhancing our Environment, and Energizing the Economy.

National Security

The Corps is an essential part of the success and support of our Armed Forces. The unique services we bring from our teams of military and civilians allow all who tap into the Corps services unparalleled support. Nationwide, the 41 districts, eight divisions, and seven laboratories provide a unique research base for excellence in infrastructure protection, military engineering, and large-scale project management.

Within the New England District, there are a large number of us who do our part to support national security everyday. After 9-11, the District assembled a team to conduct RAM-D (Risk Assessment Methodology - Dams) and physical security assessments of all our critical infrastructure -- dams, HQ, field offices and the Cape Cod Canal. The results of those assessments are paying big dividends as we have increased our FPCON (Force Protection Condition) during the on-going Operation Iraqi Freedom. Our Regulatory Division has at least twice used its authorities to support our uniformed partners in the Coast Guard and Navy to create offshore exclusion/restricted zones to better secure their facilities.

The District's FFE BDT (Field Force Engineering Base Development Team) has now completed over a half-dozen real-world missions in support of our deployed troops. They are currently the most experienced BDT in the Corps and we get constant praise for the quality of their work. I appreciate the depth and strength of all the backup players located throughout the District who support our Military and Civil Works (CW) programs. From building structures for the Army and Air Force to maintaining our waterways and harbors, it is in these programs where we create and develop the expertise to respond to the nation's calling.

Our role in emergency management with our other federal partners also enhances our national security. From our employees who volunteer to serve on the District water teams, and other standing contingency teams and positions, provide essential service to citizens of New England and America. Lastly, the District's real estate support for recruiting offices and centers; and individual housing needs of our Army, Navy, Air Force and Marine recruiters is absolutely essential to a strong military. I an honored to serve with you as we accomplish our part of this first Corps priority.

Energizing the Economy

The economic lifeblood of the New England economy flows daily through the harbors, ports and Waterways that the Corps maintains. Our Civil Works program -- from operations and maintenance, to construction, to regulatory permitting, to project management -- support the opportunities for robust economic development. At any one time, the District has just under $1 billion in contract capacity to service the needs of the New England region.

The economic impact from our own program and issued permits, has a huge effect in creating improved business opportunities, creating more jobs and sustaining continued economic development.

Enhancing our Environment

The other half of the balance with energizing the economy is our dual role to enhance the environment. From the District's own basin managers and PM's in Military Programs and Civil Works, to the Planning Branch, to the Regulatory Division, to the HTRW (Hazardous, Toxic and Radiological Waste) Branch, to the Superfund program, the Corps in New England has more positive impact on the environment in New England than just about anyone else. Over half of the District's total program is directly involved in the environmental field. With more coastline than any other CONUS District in the Corps, this is a huge responsibility.

I think just about every person in the District is in some way involved in our programs such as Superfund, BRAC, FUDS, FUSRAP and other MP and CW programs designed to preserve, remediate, restore, and otherwise enhance our environment.

Take pride in all that you do, knowing that your efforts are appreciated and align with the priorities of the organization.

Richalie Griffith assists CAP with downed plane rescue

Civil Air Patrol Emergency Team response saves lives

Imagine being awakened in the early morning hours with a message telling you that an airplane has gone down and you're needed to help search for survivors. That's what happened to Richalie Griffith, Engineering/Planning, on the morning of March 3 when the Civil Air Patrol (CAP) called her to duty.

Richalie's phone rang at 12:50 a.m. with a text message alert that an Emergency Locator Transmitter (ELT) had been activated somewhere in Western, Mass. Richalie said she was not concerned at first because ELTs go off all the time due to hard landings at airports and other such events. But when she received another page two minutes later with the message that there was an actual downed aircraft in Western, Mass., she knew she wouldn't be going back to bed.

The text message was clear: the CAP needed everyone to respond with all equipment. "When the second phone page came through, I said, 'okay, this is something big,'" said Richalie. "I called my commander and asked for details, and if we were sending a team out."

Her commander informed her that no one else from her squadron was available to respond on the ground team, and that as the team leader she needed to make the decision to gather a team for a search. It didn't take her long to decide. "I am able to take the ground team," she said. "My alert was on air crew that week, so I had a choice to do either. I chose to take the ground team out because there was no one else to do it."

Richalie called everyone on her roster that was over 18; three others responded to her request, which was enough to make up a team. Richalie, a first responder with medical training just below Emergency Medical Technician status, met her team at Hanscom Air Force Base at 2:20 a.m.

When the second phone page came through, I said, 'okay, this is something big,'
- Richalie Griffith, Engineering/Planning

Photo courtesy of the Civil Air Patrol.

Richalie Griffith (back row, left) with the Hanscom Composite Squadron's Ground Teams.

Once there, they packed all their equipment into the CAP van and were on the Massachusetts Turnpike by 3 a.m. Once there, they received their first tasking soon after getting on the road, instructing them to go to Granville State Forest in Mass., to begin the search. They searched the state park for half the day.

When nothing turned up, Richalie and her team received orders to go to Westover Air Reserve Base for a quick break and another tasking. The new tasking required the team to drive into Connecticut via Route 23 West to Route 7 South and search the area along the route. As the team neared Bear Town State Forest, the downed plane was spotted by a Massachusetts State Police helicopter. "By the time we got to the Bear Town State Forest, another search crew found the target," she said.

According to Richalie, once the plane was found, all of the search teams were told to stand down to wait for further instructions. The first search team, made up of State Police, went to the crash site on snowmobile, while the other teams, including Richalie's, went in on foot soon after.

The seven family members onboard the downed plane were airlifted out of the state forest. Three children survived the crash. The father survived the crash but later died at the hospital. After completing their mission, Richalie and her team drove to Westover ARB for a debriefing, and then returned to Hanscom at around 9 p.m. that night.

Although not a veteran of rescue missions, the early morning phone call requesting help was not Richalie's first. She has been involved in three distress missions since she joined the Civil Air Patrol in 1995, and has been involved in more non-emergency missions than she can count.

Photo by Mark McInerney

Richalie receives a coin from Lt. Gen. Flowers during his recent trip to the District.

The 23-year-old junior at the University of Massachusetts, Dartmouth, devotes approximately 20 hours a week to the CAP and holds the rank of 1st Lieutenant. She is up for promotion to Captain in May. Lt. Gen. Robert Flowers, Chief of Engineers, recognized Richalie as one of the Corps of Engineers' "heroes" and awarded her a Chief's coin during the March 31 Town Meeting held at Concord Park.

The Civil Air Patrol is the Civilian Auxiliary of the U.S. Air Force, and was founded Dec. 1, 1941 a week before Pearl Harbor. The all-volunteer CAP performs three main functions -- emergency services, aerospace education, and cadet training.

In addition to working part-time for the Corps of Engineers (she has been a student trainee in Engineering and Planning's Design Branch, Civil Section since August 23, 2002) and majoring in Civil Engineering at UMASS Dartmouth, Richalie is involved with the Society of Women Engineers on the student-transition team and is currently running for the Deputy Director of Students. She is the first student and the youngest person to ever join as a life member in the organization.

Richalie is also a member with the American Society of Civil Engineers, the Institute of Transportation Engineers, the Society of American Military Engineers and is a licensed pilot.

Providence River and Harbor federal maintenance dredging project underway

by Timothy Dugan
Public Affairs

The long-anticipated removal of 6 million tons of debris within the Providence River and Harbor started quietly on April 12 when massive dredges lifted the first of many cubic yards of material from the silted-in federal navigation channel.

The contractor, Great Lakes Dredge and Dock Company, of Oak Brook, Ill., mobilized to Narragansett Bay on April 11 and is scheduled to begin dredging on Friday or Saturday, April 11.

Work started in the Rumstick Reach was completed within seven days as the contractor worked 24 hours a day.

The project involves dredging of the authorized federal navigation channel in the Providence River. Shoaling has reduced depths in the channel by more than 8 feet in places creating draft restrictions and significant time delays for deep-draft vessels using the project. The project involves dredging more than 6 million cubic yards of material to return a 7-mile stretch of the authorized Federal navigation project to full authorized dimensions – 40 feet deep and 600 feet wide.

Work will take 18 months to complete, according to Project Manager Ed O'Donnell, Chief of the Navigation Section, New England District, Corps of Engineers, Programs and Project Management Division. The $43 million contract was awarded to Great Lakes Dredge and Dock Company in December 2002. The total state cost share in the project is about $7.4 million.

About 1.5 million cubic yards of material will be placed in confined aquatic disposal (CAD) cells. "We continue to work with the state to beneficially use about 215,000 cubic yards of clean sandy material from the CAD cell excavation as fill at Fields Point for Johnson and Wales University," O'Donnell said. The remainder of the maintenance material and suitable CAD cell material will be placed at an offshore disposal site in Rhode Island Sound.

Student intern completes forest inventory for Edward MacDowell Lake using ArcGIS

Story and photos by Martin Curran Construction/Operations

Jason Killary is an environmental science student attending Unity College in Unity, Maine. He is also an intern completing the natural resources segment of his internship at Edward MacDowell Lake in Peterborough, N.H.

Jason has worked during the two previous summers for the Corps at Hopkinton Lake as a temporary ranger. He will be returning again this spring to Hopkinton Lake to resume his ranger duties.

For now, Jason is completing a forest inventory on Compartment Number 4 at Edward MacDowell Lake. This part of his internship includes being a member of a forest inventory team with Martin Curran, Environmental Compliance Coordinator of the Merrimack River Basin (supervising the internship) and Park Ranger Jason Tremblay of Edward MacDowell Lake. The team has been inventorying the forest on the 630-acre compartment this winter.

Jason began his internship during his three-week semester break and, because of snow accumulation, data collection was conducted wearing snowshoes. Jason showed enthusiasm for his work even on the coldest days. He was exposed to not only the weather but to every aspect of inventory layout and field data collection and recording. Jason is processing the field inventory data using NED-1 computer software developed by the U.S. Forest Service at the Northeast Research Station. His final product will be a forest cover type layer using ArcGIS.

The information collected will be used to determine basal area, species composition, density, timber volumes, acceptable and non-acceptable growing stock, and cavity and snag tree numbers and locations. Age and site index for each forest stand will also be determined. Site index will be used to predict growth productivity.

When he returns this summer, he will be involved with delineating forest cover types using stereo orthophoto pairs viewed through a mirror stereoscope with magnifying binoculars.

He will then digitize the forest cover types using ArcGIS and create attribute tables for each forest stand in the cover type layer using information from the forest inventory. His winter work may have been cold, but he persevered and is looking forward to resuming his work on his internship project this summer.

Jason Killary in the process of measuring the diameter of a tree using a D-tape.

Tully Lake park rangers team up with local groups for educational series

By Jeff Mangum
Park Manager, Tully Lake

Located north of the Quabbin Reservoir, the Tully Valley contains one of the largest contiguous tracts of forest in southern New England. It's an ideal place to enjoy nature. And starting this summer, it's a great place to have a close encounter with raptors, learn how to fly fish, or take a guided hike with trained naturalists.

These opportunities are all part of the 2003 Tully Lake Summer Series, a new education partnership sponsored by the Trustees of Reservations, the Army Corps of Engineers and the Athol Bird and Nature Club.

Visitors can choose from three types of events. Short Walks are two to three hour weekend hikes along local trails.

Evening Workshops will be presented at night under the big tent at Tully Campground in Royalston during the weekdays. Topics will range from nature photography to native butterflies.

Weekend "Big Events" will include day-long sessions, such as a two-day trek along the Tully Trail or a seminar on nature photography.

"These programs are designed to blend fun and education," said Regional Director Dick O'Brien. "But they're also intended to build greater love and long-term support for land protection in the region."

"That's an important goal, because central Massachusetts contains large undeveloped parcels of land that small-scale development threatens to fragment," he said.

Conservation partnerships are an important part of preserving the landscape. Tully campground, for example, is owned by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers but managed by the Trustees. All three education partners are part of an effort to create the Tully Trail, an 18-mile loop trail that connects protected open space, including the Trustees three reservations: Doane's Falls, Jacob's Hill, and Royalston Falls. But as Dick points out, grassroots support is critical

To learn more about the 2003 Tully Lake Summer Series, visit www.thetrustees.org, where you can take a virtual tour of Tully Campground and discover more events in the calendar section.

Lewis and Clark commemoration is underway

by Timothy Dugan
Public Affairs

Two hundred years ago, President Thomas Jefferson commissioned Capt. Meriwether Lewis and Capt. William Clark to find a Northwest Passage by water to the Pacific Ocean and explore the new northwestern frontier.

For the next three years, diverse groups and agencies will commemorate that expedition that brought so many scientific discoveries to the new nation. The Lewis and Clark Commemoration is being held across the United States and many clubs and organizations will hold reenactments and follow the famous expedition's trail. Many of the events will be held on government land and water managed by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers.

The Corps, a leading provider of outdoor recreation, has direct stewardship of 22 percent of the Lewis and Clark route. The Corps has 457 lakes nationwide that provide camping, day-use, visitor centers and river access open to the public.

In New England, the Corps will help commemorate the Lewis and Clark expedition by providing interpretive outreach programs to schools, historic societies, and civic groups. Park rangers will use "Corps of Discovery" kits to present historically accurate, stimulating and entertaining

Rick Magee in period costume during a recent Teacher's Expo in Boston, Mass.

presentations of the Lewis and Clark expedition. Presentations can be tailored to fit a group's specific interest – math, science, social studies or American history.

Upcoming District scheduled events include the "Animals of the Lewis and Clark Expedition," an exhibit and presentation Sept. 12-28, 2003 at the Big E in West Springfield, Mass.

For more information about Lewis and Clark activities check the Corps website at: (http://www.nae.usace.army.mil/lwsclrk/index.htm). There are links to numerous other Lewis and Clark websites.

Diary of a facilitator:
Project Management Business Process

by Joanne Barry
Regulatory Division

What does PMBP mean to me? My requirement? Process for building a house? Process for workplace harmony? All these questions come flying through my brain as I say, "What does PMBP mean to you?" to yet another small group.

For the past two months, I have facilitated some of the small group discussions on disks one and two of the Project Management Business Process (PMBP). At first I dreaded them. It was unnerving, and I was unfamiliar with the content and the format for the meetings. I couldn't really tell the participants how the process worked or teach them about PMBP. This was "adult learning"-- they teach themselves. I was supposed to facilitate that "adult learning" process. After two days of training, I knew the appropriate questions to ask. My facilitating partner, Dave Schafer, and I had been over the web sites and the questions and the content and the icebreakers and exercises. We were ready. But still there was something unnerving about the whole thing.

People would want to know, "What is this? What is the right answer?" Plus, here were my colleagues, looking at me as a symbol of PMBP and as a symbol of management's decision to "make" us go through the disks and actually do this stuff. Who was I to run these sessions, anyway? And weren't we doing PMBP already. I could hear that little devil on my shoulder saying, "my team always works that way." But it was too late. I had committed to the sessions and the participants were there so I should make it happen and make it good.

I went to the first session. It seemed to go well. We asked the killer question; "what does PMBP mean to you?" And the responses came back. Not too many jibes. We did the first exercise. And it went well. We told some jokes. And people laughed. We discussed some issues. And people responded with real answers. And I began to understand the process.

I went to the next session. I was not as nervous. The first one had given me courage. I had met some people and learned some things and generally had a good feeling about PMBP. I didn't hesitate to ask the question, "What does PMBP mean to you?" Silence. There was no answer. Dave and I filled in the blanks. We did an exercise with the group but no participation. People weren't talking. We asked more questions, "tell me about a project that is not going well and what you think is the reason?" The response would be, "I don't have any projects like that." People complained. This was beginning to hurt physically. I didn't dare tell any jokes. We didn't get to any issues. We did some more break out exercises. Heck, I was beginning to break out.

Finally, the after action report: "wells" and "not so wells." I was prepared for it. I can take criticism. They liked the facilitators? Okay, they are polite. They had problems with the computers. They wanted more on PMBP. The team wasn't right. They did not work together. Administrative staff shouldn't do this. Administrative staff should do this. Finally, they were participating. Finally, we were through with that session. But there were more.

'I learned a lot, met some new colleagues, took some criticism, had some laughs.'

.....

Joanne Barry,
PMBP facilitator

Dave and I discussed what went wrong. Should we have used different exercises? Different questions? We were discouraged and exhausted. We asked the other facilitators. Were they having the same problems? I was hesitant about facilitating another session but there was one scheduled for the same afternoon. I dreaded it.

One more time, "What does PMBP mean to you?" People hesitated; I drew in a shallow breath and tensed. Then an answer came, "A requirement. We have to do it." Okay, I tensed more. Then another answer came, "It's a process for teamwork." "It's to help us communicate better." "It's about team building." I breathed again and stopped perspiring. We did an exercise. And it went well. We told some jokes. And people laughed. We discussed some issues. And people responded with real answers. And I think they began to understand the process.

I completed the rest of our facilitations. I learned a lot, met some new colleagues, took some criticism, had some laughs. Some sessions were much better than others but no matter who I ask, participants got back almost exactly what they put into it. And that is what PMBP means to me.

Public expresses mixed feelings at Greenbush Hearing

The environment, noise, and safety concerns dominated the testimony given during public hearings for the Massachusetts Bay Transportation Authority's application for the construction of the Greenbush Old Colony Railroad commuter line, April 15, in Hingham, Mass. Two hearings, hosted by the New England District in the afternoon and evening, were held at the Hingham Town Hall, and drew a crowd of over 275 people.

The MBTA has requested a Corps permit to place fill material within a total of 7.81 acres of wetlands and waterways for the construction of the commuter line. Construction of the commuter rail will include installing approximately 18 miles of rail line and seven new commuter rail stations and an end of the line layover facility. The line would go through the towns of Braintree, Weymouth, Hingham, Cohasset, and Scituate, Mass.

Lt. Col. Brian Green, Deputy District Engineer, served as hearing officer for the two hearings. "Our role in this permit process is defined by Section 404 of the Clean Water Act, by Section 10 of the Rivers and Harbors Act, and as required by Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act," he said. "I'd like to emphasize that this is your hearing and we need you to assist us in this public review process."

Andrew Brennan, Director of Environmental Affairs for the MBTA, followed Lt. Col. Green and briefed the attendees on the permit application. Following procedural remarks by Larry Rosenberg, Chief, Public Affairs, the audience were given the opportunity to present their comments both for and against the project.

"Sound levels from the proposed restored train as measured by the MBTA will significantly interfere with sound levels and music in the church as well as speech sound levels for reading during meals in the refectory," wrote the Benedictine Monks of Glastonbury Abbey in Hingham. "We request that the MBTA be required to respond adequately to these environmental, safety and procedural issues as a condition of any permits issued by the Corps of Engineers."

Photos by Mark McInerney

A panel of representatives from the New England District wait to hear testimony during the Greenbush Public Hearing.

William Johnson, Hingham Fire Chief, presents his comments to the New England District.

Catherine Rein of Hingham appealed to the Corps to consider the safety issues of the project. "You are engineers. You may or may not care about the aesthetics of my 300 year old house. But can you sleep if you allow a design that entices children to look both ways, see no cars coming, and cross the train tracks to their death?"

The proposed project would impact essential fish habitat for smelt, herring and alewife. The habitat consist of tidally influenced streams including Town Brook in Hingham, Mass., and Smelt Brook in Weymouth, Mass. Loss of this habitat may adversely affect spawning and anadromous fish runs for smelt herring, and alewife.

The MBTA has developed a wetland mitigation plan to replace lost wetlands. The overall mitigation goal would be to provide mitigation to impact ratio of two to one.

"The decision whether to issue a permit will be based on an evaluation of the probable impact of the proposed activity in the public interest," said Permit Manager Theodore Lento. "That decision will reflect the national concern for both protection and utilization of important resources."

"A prior public hearing was held in August of 1997 that was attended by over 500 people," said Lt. Col. Green. "At that time, we received extensive comments, both oral and written, that have been incorporated into our records and will be considered fully in our decision process."

Stenographers were available to attendees who wanted to make a statement, but did not want to speak. All comments, whether written or spoken at the hearing, will be given equal weight in the decision-making process. The New England District accepted comments on the project until April 25.

A website on the Greenbush Permit Application has been established. For more information, please go to http://www.nae.usace.army.mil/projects/ma/greenbush.htm.

Chief of Engineers visits District, holds Town meeting

Continued from page 1

efforts, PMBP, Environmental Operating Principles, USACE 2012, and the deployment of P2.

When discussing emergency operations, the General said that the Corps has responded to over 30 federally declared disasters since Sept. 11, 2001, and many people from New England District have participated. "I have always been impressed with our organization for its ability to execute these missions," he said.

The Chief of Engineers also complemented New England District for being globally engaged. He mentioned Quentin Walsh in the Far East District who is backfilling for some deployed personnel; Phil Morrison, Donna Vondle, Jim Lewis, and Mark Wilmes went to Guam to assist in Emergency Operations; and Maj. Mike FitzGerald, Peter Quinn, Mike Tibbs, Darrell Collins, John Babbs, Bob Govero, are all overseas. Lt. Gen. Flowers also said that four District team members were called up for active duty during Operation Iraqi Freedom: Ray Frisk, Dennis Arsenault, Jason Robinson, Matt McClintock. The Chief of Engineers asked everyone to keep them in their thoughts.

The Corps of Engineers is making the transition to a learning organization, bringing all cumulative experiences together so that everyone has access to it, according to Lt. Gen. Flowers. "When Alaska District learns a lesson, the New England District learns it at the same time," he said.

The General told his audience that he likes to have fun in his job. When he visits Corps offices, he likes to walk around where employees work. If he finds someone on the phone and if they are speaking with a Corps person, he asks to talk to them. "I take out my phone book and I will periodically call up people to find out how things are going," he said. "I get some very interesting conversations. It recharges my batteries."

Photos by Mark McInerney

Lt. Gen. Robert Flowers talks about current events around the Corps with New England District

Lt. Gen. Robert Flowers stopped in to say hi to Julie Canney as he walked through Concord Park.

Lt. Gen. Flowers discussed the Corps of Engineers three strategic goals: People, Process, and Communication, and said that tying in the Mission Essential Task List to individual development plans is a very important. "I want your individual performance plans to be a contract between you and the Corps so we can find a way to resource your professional development," he said. "With the tools that are being developed I can roll up what's contained in everyone's IDP and I know how much I have to resource in order to professionally develop my workforce."

The Chief of Engineers said he wanted everyone to step up to his challenge: If not me, who? If not now, when? "Everyone has a 'do it' card in their pocket," he said. "If you see something that has to get done, do it. Don't expect someone else to come along to take care of it."

Lt. Gen. Flowers indicated that he is very interested in improving the quality of work life. Tools that are available for that purpose are telework, alternate work schedules, and part-time employment. He also said that although these tools will allow employees to spend more time at home, employees still need to spend time in the office. "You can't coach, teach, and mentor with phone, fax and e-mail," he said. "Sometimes you've got to pull people together and look them in the eye. That's important."

The General then took the audience on a journey to where

(Continued on page 11)

Town Meeting

Continued from page 10

the Corps has been and where he thinks its going. He displayed charts of the old stovepipe system and then to the early days of the project manager. He ended with the current system of the project delivery team. He urged supervisors to keep aware of ongoing projects. "Stay plugged in," he said. "Their product is your product."

Lt. Gen. Flowers said he's been frustrated that, as Chief of Engineers, he hasn't been able to "get out" all the good news stories out of the Corps of Engineers. He said that it was up to Corps employees to tell the good news story themselves. "If you get an opportunity to talk to a school group, community, anything, please talk about the Corps," he said. "Talk up the Corps' contribution to national security, the economy, and the environment."

Lt. Gen. Flowers ended his briefing by charging District employees to be proud of their contributions to the nation and to bring the Vision home: one team--a learning organization -- the agency of choice. He told everyone to build and strengthen relationships; smile and have fun.

The General then presented awards to District "heroes" who have performed above and beyond expectations. The "heroes" were Ken Paton, Joan Gardner, Ann Marie Harvie, Karen Adams, Jay Provenzano, Rick Magee, Richalie Griffith, Jerry Nunziato, David Hakanson, Bill Hubbard, and the Guam Team (Phil Morrison, Donna Vondle, Mark Wilmes, and Jim Lewis).

Following the Town Meeting, Lt. Gen. Flowers toured Hanscom Air Force Base and the Corps' Building 1614 Restoration Project. The Corps is turning an old commissary into state-of-the-art office space (detailed story on page 1).

The Chief of Engineers concluded his day with the New England District by journeying into Boston for an editorial board with the Christian Science Monitor.

Photo by Mark McInerney

Participants in the Hanscom Air Force Base tour pause for a picture.

Flowers tours project Base

Continued from page 1

impressed with the joint-service partnership and working relationship. "This is a great example of the team coming together," he said. "Having the customer, the contractor, and the Corps working as a team makes things happen," he said.

The work will be performed in three phases. Phase I of the renovation is currently underway and is expected to be completed in September 2003. Once the $12.1 million Phase I is complete, it will allow the Air Force to relocate 535 personnel back onto the base. "I think the work is going great," said Col. Jones. "The quality is outstanding. The weather has put us behind a bit, but we're not worried. Everything seems to be on track. We're very pleased."

Phase II and III of the project will be performed concurrently. When completed, the U.S. Air Force expects to relocate approximately 516 employees back to Hanscom. At the time of this article, Phases II ($10.6 million) and III ($7.4 million) are at the 60 percent design level. "We're working well with the Corps, the contractor ROADS and I think we're going to have a number one project here," said Col. Jones.

ROADS Corporation of Billerica Mass., is the contractor. Reinhardt Associates of Agawam, Mass., is the architect on the project. Work at the site is performed under the supervision of Corps of Engineers construction personnel.

After the tour concluded, the Chief of Engineers was confident in the project and the personnel working on the project. "The quality is extremely high," he said. "You can tell by walking around the site that they pay attention to safety. It seems that the workers are well supervised. I think it's going to result in a top quality facility for the Air Force which is what we try to do."

The Corps of Engineers is also working on a $7.7 million two-phase design and build contract for a new gymnasium at Hanscom. Future Corps of Engineers work at Hanscom includes a Fourth Cliff erosion control and retaining wall; an Armed Forces Reserves Center; the renovation of acquisition management facility at Building 1600; replace BCE heavy pave and ground facility; and the renovation of the acquisition management facility at Building 1102C.

"I think when you deliver quality products on time and within budget, people keep coming back to you," said Lt. Gen. Flowers.

Chief of Engineers honors New England District 'Heroes'

The following "heroes" were among those honored by Lt. Gen. Robert Flowers, Chief of Engineers during a special Town Meeting he held, March 31:

Ken Paton
Programs & Project Management
(Military Projects Branch)

As the project manager for work at Hanscom Air Force Base and various projects at U.S. Army Soldiers System Center in Natick Mass., Ken established relationships with our customers that earned him their respect, and enhanced our reputation.

Ken even received the Air Force Materiel Command Project Manager of the Year in the Design Agent Category. He was recognized for setting a positive tone and opening lines of communication between management, design professionals, and customers, fostering team interaction and ensuring collaboration.

Joan Gardner
Technical Support Branch
Construction/Operations Division.

Joni gives back to her community and profession. Joni has been involved in the North Cambridge Catholic High School's Adopt a School program for over a dozen years. She visits the school two to three times a year mentoring students interested in engineering.

For the last three years, Joni reached out to her own Matignon High School; and, as a direct result of her inspiration, children who have taken her class have entered fields such as biochemical and mechanical engineering. And there's more … Joni speaks to Girl Scout and Cub Scout troops and helps them earn Career Achievement Badges and Engineer Pins. Joan Gardner is a hero.

Karen Adams
Massachusetts Branch
Regulatory Division

Karen is the PM assigned to the precedent setting permit applications for development of off-shore wind farms. This effort has attracted the attention of many interests – from neighborhood advocacy organizations to local, state and federal elected officials. In response, Karen's team is successfully pursuing outreach opportunities in a manner that is overwhelmingly perceived by the public and our stakeholders as objective, and one that has integrity.

Jay Provenzano
Information Management

Jay is a contracted computer support specialist for New England District's Information Management Division. Jay is known throughout the District for his prowess as a "superhuman" computer support guru. He's the go-to-guy for problems and he has rescued many an individual from their techno illiteracy. But, Jay really pulled the ultimate save on March 18, when he observed a fellow co-worker choking and in severe distress. Jay's rapid response and individual effort saved this person from an untimely death. Jay is being recognized for his rescue of a fellow worker.

Rick Magee
Lower Connecticut River Basin

Rick is a Ranger's Ranger – always there to assist others while working to enhance the public's understanding of the Corps service to the community. Rick volunteered to represent the Corps in the Lewis and Clark Commemoration about one year ago -- and has been "on tour" ever since – attached to his Discovery Box at the wrist and ankles! Rick is presently working as part of the District's Lewis and Clark PDT to explore opportunities throughout New England that will identify opportunities for the Corps to bring our Army Values to regional schools (4-8 grade).

Photos by Mark McInerney

Richalie Griffith
Engineering/Planning.

Richalie is a full-time student in her junior year at UMASS Dartmouth, studying Civil Engineering. She is also a part-time employee in our Design Branch and a very active member of the Civil Air Patrol. She recently participated in a rescue involving a plane crash carrying seven family members. Three of the family members – all children – were saved. In her not-so-free time, Richalie is also actively involved in the Society of American Military Engineers, the Institute of Transportation Engineers, and the American Society of Civil Engineers. She was recently named the youngest person to ever obtain a lifetime membership in the Society of Women Engineers.

Jerry Nunziato
Security Office/Logistics

Jerry has managed every aspect of the District's Toys for Tots Program, sponsored by the WE Committee, for the past four years. In 2002, the New England District donated over 200 toys

for the program. The U.S. Marines were so grateful for the large donation, that they honored the District with a Commander's Award. Additionally, Jerry has been the program manager for the Human Resource Office's Employees with Disabilities Program for many years.

Dave Hakanson
Real Estate Division

Dave is the Team Leader of the National Recruiting Facilities Program for the New England District. The program leases and maintains approximately 150 recruiting offices in New England. He's also the manager for the Energy Conservation Program.

This is a nationwide program that was started in the New England District when Dave actively engaged the local utility companies to reduce energy consumption in the recruiting offices. Thanks to Dave's initiative, it is anticipated that millions of dollars will be saved nationally.

Bill Hubbard
Evaluation Branch
Engineering/Planning Division

Bill chairs the Northeast Regional Implementation Team for Coastal America. The team has focused its efforts on habitat restoration, and in particular, restoration of tidally constricted salt marshes. It has also helped to establish the New England Corporate Wetlands Restoration Partnership. The work of the partnership has been celebrated at events hosted by Senator John Kerry, Senator Kennedy, Senator Chafee, the ASA-CW, the Massachusetts & Maine Governors, and many other state and federal officials.

Bill's work and reputation is known throughout the water resources community, lending great credibility to services the Corps delivers.

Guam Team
Phil Morrison, Donna Vondle, Jim Lewis, and Mark Wilmes

Donna Vondle and Jim Lewis

When the Corps asked for volunteers to support the recovery mission in Guam from the devastation caused by Super Typhoon Pongsona, New England District answered the call. Four stalwarts from the district stepped up to the plate and did a super job in the recovery effort. I think it's particularly noteworthy that all of you are repeat volunteers for disaster missions. But it seems like Mark just can't hold back – this was his seventh mission. In all seriousness, the four of you, like your brothers and sisters throughout the Corps, have demonstrated the value that the Corps brings to the table, consistent capability and dedicated selfless service. When the nation calls with a mission, New England District gets the job done..

Federal Women's Program holds effectiveness workshop

In celebration of Women's History, the Federal Women's Program and the Equal Employment Opportunity Office hosted a one-hour effectiveness workshop presented by Joanne Linowes entitled, "Presenting Ideas Effectively -- making your meetings and discussions interesting and memorable. "

The presentation was featured twice, once in early morning and another in late morning, in the District Theatre, on April 15. Sixty people signed up for both sessions. Ms. Linowes presented specific hints for turning ideas into "absorbable" information, resulting in workshop participants coming across as competent and confident. Topics that Ms. Linowes discussed with attendees included: organizing information for impact plus constructing remarks using linguistic, persuasive, nonverbal and visual techniques to add "energy and interest" to material.

Photo by Brian Murphy

Ms. Linowes teaches her effectiveness workshop as part of Women's History Month.

At the end of her presentation, Lt. Col. Brian Green, Deputy District Engineer, presented Ms. Linowes with a Commander's Coin. Federal Women's Program Manager, Barbara Blumeris presented her with a scroll of appreciation.

District Engineers judge science experiments at Millis Middle School Science Fair

by Mike Walsh
Engineering/Planning

Photo by Joe Bocchino

Mike Walsh with student Kelly Collins at the Millis Middle School Science Fair.

On Thursday, March 13, Joe Bocchino and I served as two of many judges for the Millis, Mass., Middle School Science, Math and Technology Fair.

The students were required to make a hypothesis and then devise a program of experiments that would test that hypothesis. Finally the students were required to report the results of their research and determine whether their original hypothesis was valid. Some of the most intriguing and puzzling questions of life were answered and tested by the students of Millis Middle School:

What water temperature is best for growing plants? Hot, cold, and room temperature water was used to grow plants from seed. The seeds started with room temperature water grew taller and were healthier.

Does gender affect a person's sense of smell? The answer is yes. Women were marginally more accurate than men in identifying the unknown.

What is the best metal to use in an electromagnet? Zinc coated steel.

Does listening to music affect a mouse's appetite? The answer is a definite yes!

Which is cleaner: a dog's mouth or a human's mouth? It was a close race! The dog won out in the end, but the researcher couldn't be dogmatic about it. He did stress, however, the importance of dental hygiene (for both dogs and people).

Obviously there were many other answers to those nagging questions we all carry around with us, but there were about 190 research projects on display that day and I couldn't visit them all. The one I really regret not finding out about was "Which conducts electricity better, a potato or a lemon?" Since the discovery of electricity, this question has plagued the minds of scientists throughout the ages. I can hardly stand knowing that some middle school student in Millis has unlocked the mystery and I didn't get to interview him. Joe and I both had a great time and are grateful for the opportunity. Science is a huge part of what we do here at the Corps, and it is a privilege to encourage students in their scientific endeavors.

Photo by Brian Murphy

District celebrates Engineer's Week

New England District employees participated in Engineer's Week by staffing a booth at a Career Night in Boston at the Sheraton Boston, March 27.

With the, "Your Corps in New England," display in the background, Human Resources, Engineering, and Executive staff fielded questions about the Corps of Engineers.

According to participants, the Career Night was a success, and the District collected about 30 resumes during the event.

Reaching out to the public:
Schoolchildren thank geologists with letters

When New England District employees Paul Young and Rosemary Schmidt visited the Birch Meadow School in Reading, Mass., to talk about sand, silt, and rock types, they didn't expect to get "fan mail" from their audience. But they did...sacks full.

The geologists received two packages filled with letters from the second and fourth grade classes thanking them for visiting their school in February and in March. The geologists spoke at eight sessions, and a total of 160 students. Each session lasted about 45 to 60 minutes.

Paul and Rose took the "touchy, feely" approach to learning by bringing samples of rocks and fossils for the kids to hold and to experiment with. "We passed around various samples of silt, sand and rocks," said Paul. "We also discussed minerals and fossils, and passed around samples of gold, lava, a real diamond, copper, galena, pumice, a rock core, fossil fish and shells, dinosaur footprint, fossilized turtle dung which was a real big hit. We also passed around examples of different types of silt, sand, and clay and some of the students could not wait to touch the samples, which we encouraged them to do."

"I love your rocks," wrote Scott about the session. "I really liked the one that floats in the water. You have a lot of interesting parts to your job. Learning about rocks was really fun."

The letters were not exclusively about what the children liked about Rose's and Paul's presentations. Their presentation sparked a curiosity in the geology field in some of the youngsters. "There is a lot to know about rocks," wrote Robert. "How do you know so much?"

Will was full of questions about geology. "How many people work in your group? Have you ever gotten hurt? How many fossils do you have? Do you use the sifter to sift sand and soil?"

Paul indicated that he had as much fun as the kids did. "At first we were not sure what to expect but after we did our dog and pony show we realized that we also had fun too" he said.

A sample of the many letters written by students to the District Geologists.

"Rose and I thought it was great that we were able to share our experiences as geologists and we both felt that if we could get one student interested in earth science then it was worth it."

Gauging from the letters, they touched more than one student. "I was wondering how you became a geologist," asked Josephine. "How many years have you studied about rocks?"

"I like your job, it's probably fun," wrote Megan. "I might be a geologist when I grow up."

Does your school or organization need a speaker?

Speakers from the New England District, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers are professional people who are prepared to present topics of interest to the public. They are your neighbors and friends, and though you may not realize it, these experts are available to address audiences on a variety of topical subjects.

Professions represented among Corps employees include archeology, architecture, biology, environmental restoration, forestry, geology, hydrology, industrial hygiene, natural resource management, public affairs, regulatory issues and permitting procedures, sociology, surveying, water resources development, wetlands and nearly all of the engineering disciplines.

The Corps will supply speakers, free of charge, to clubs, organizations, educational institutions and special interest groups. Prepared audiovisual presentations and displays are also available for showing at no cost.

To schedule a Corps speaker, please call our Speakers Bureau Coordinator, Sally Rigione at 978-318-8237 or e-mail at sally.m.rigione@usace.army.mil.

Regulatory reviews Wetland Mitigation Study during summit

The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers has never claimed to be perfect – it is constantly evolving. The public knows it and the Corps knows it. But the Corps of Engineers is also an organization that strives for perfection, which is why they look at their programs, involve their customers and try to find ways to improve. One example is the wetland mitigation program for the New England District. On April 3, 2003, the New England District participated in the second mitigation summit, hopefully the second in a series of meetings that will improve wetland mitigation in New England.

Last year, when the District's Regulatory Division wanted to improve wetland mitigation on the permits it issues, they convened a Mitigation Summit and developed a mitigation task force to get comments and ideas. Both these meetings involved representatives from all the state and federal environmental agencies. The Task Force was a working group of scientists given a specific task – to help the District develop a way to assess the success of mitigation in New England and to try to bring agency executive awareness to the topic.

The Summit brought together agency executives to present the idea of the mitigation study and to develop a collective consciousness on wetland mitigation in New England. "The Summit last year brought together all New England states and federal agencies to address issues for improving wetland mitigation in New England," said Lt. Col. Brian Green, Deputy District Engineer. It also began a dialogue at the executive level aimed at improving our knowledge about and implementation of wetland mitigation.

This site in Dunstable, Mass., is a success due to the wet meadow open water area that was a mitigation of severely degraded wetland impacts.

This site in Ipswich, Mass., is a good tidal marsh replication.

The 2002 Summit resulted in the Regulatory Division conducting a year-long study of wetland mitigation at 60 sites. On April 3, Regulatory and the New England Interstate Water Pollution Control Commission held the second Mitigation Summit to discuss the results of that study and other issues related to mitigation at the EPA offices in Chelmsford, Mass. "As you will hear, there are problems we observed, but there are also success," said Lt. Col. Green.

Paul Minkin, one of New England District's senior wetland scientists, briefed the results of 2002 Corps Wetland Mitigation Study. "The study measures success in two ways," he said. "Does it comply with permit conditions? And Does the site function as a wetland that replaces functions lost from impacted areas?"

The scientist then talked about how he and Ruth Ladd, another senior wetland scientist, and the Mitigation Task Force developed the study and selected the 60 sites which were evaluated. Wet-

lands were randomly selected, but represented each of the six New England states. Sites had to be greater than 0.10 acre and constructed prior to 2001. The scientists looked at creation and restoration sites only. Field methods of data collection and the potential for long-term monitoring followed the site selection discussion.

Attendees listen to the briefings during the Summit.

Paul highlighted 10 of the 60 sites used in the study during his presentation, and explained what went well and what went not so well with the wetland mitigation at these sites. Some site problems included poor grading – sites too wet or too dry, and that fact that some sites do not reflect landscape context of impacted areas. Site successes included block transplant method for development of wooded wetlands, and mitigation for some impacts to highly degraded wetlands resulted in net functional gain for some projects. Paul displayed several graphs that illustrated the percentages of wetland impacts by wetland type, the percentages of proposed mitigation by wetland type; the percentage of field-confirmed mitigation by wetland type; and impacts and mitigation by wetland type.

Paul also compared New England Mitigation to the 2000 NRC Study on Wetlands in his briefing. That study was fairly critical of the Corps of Engineers mitigation across the country and, although the NRC study did not examine any sites in New England, our successes were only marginally better than the rest of the country. New England District has a much better track record for project completion than the rest of the country but the science is still evolving and wetland creation takes more time than we are often willing to acknowledge.

He concluded the presentation by discussing the next steps Regulatory Division feels it needs to take in order to improve wetland mitigation. These include continuing to improve data management; striving for no overall net loss of function; and continuing evaluation of mitigation to gauge progress.

"We will continue to monitor these sites and to implement the improvements that the study has shown are in the best interest of wetland mitigation in New England," said Christine Godfrey, Chief, Regulatory Division after Paul's presentation. "We would like to get your input on how we should improve."

For about an hour, Paul's presentation and Christine's remarks prompted comments and discussions for improvements from the attendees.

Continuing with the Summit, Matt Schweisberg, Senior Ecologist from the Environmental Protection Agency, discussed Regulatory Guidance Letter 02-2 (Guidance on Compensatory Mitigation Projects for Aquatic Resource Impacts Under the Corps Regulatory Program Pursuant to Section 404 of the Clean Water Act and Section 10 of the Rivers and Harbors Act of 1899) dated Dec. 24, 2002. Mr. Schweisberg took about 10 minutes to make comments on key portions of the 16-page letter, authored by the Corps of Engineers in cooperation with the EPA.

Following a lunch break, the wetlands workgroup and mitigation taskforce members participated an almost two hour work session. During the session Lori Sommer, Mitigation Specialist for NHDES made a presentation on New Hampshire's Draft Mitigation Regulations. Ruth Ladd followed Ms. Sommer with a discussion of the Massachusetts Mitigation Checklist.

Paul Minkin discusses the 2002 Corps Mitigation Study.

The Mitigation Summit concluded with an hour-long discussion of next steps and opportunities for standardization. "I want to emphasize the Corps' commitment to continuing our work on evaluating and improving wetland mitigation as well as our commitment to implementing the improvements that we have identified and discussed," said Lt. Col. Green. "We see this as one in a series of meetings on this topic as we work together towards the common goal of improving wetland mitigation in New England."

Other speakers included Susan Sullivan, Deputy Director, and Rebekah Lacey of the New England Interstate Water Pollution Control Commission.

The 2002 Corps Mitigation Study is online at http://www.nae.usace.army.mil/reg and the Regulatory Guidance Letter 02-2 can be viewed at http://www.usace.army.mil/inet/functions/cw/cecwo/reg/RGL2-02.pdf.

District proposes coastal storm reduction plan for MDC Reservation at Nantasket Beach

by Timothy Dugan
Public Affairs Office

The New England District has conducted a feasibility investigation to examine coastal storm damage reduction alternatives for the Metropolitan District Commission (MDC) Reservation at Nantasket Beach in the town of Hull, Mass., and is now proposing a recommended plan.

"The study for the coastal storm damage reduction project was conducted to examine solutions to storm damage and flooding at the Nantasket Beach MDC Reservation and backshore properties in the town of Hull," said study manager David Larsen, of the Corps of Engineers, New England District, Engineering/Planning Division.

Photo provided by Dave Larsen.

The New England District is proposing a recommended plan for coastal storm damage reductions at Nantasket Beach.

During coastal storms, considerable damages can be sustained by these properties from flooding, wind and wave action. This study has been completed to identify and evaluate alternative plans that would reduce or eliminate these damages.

"The proposed project for the Nantasket Beach MDC Reservation would provide protection along about 5,400 feet of shoreline along Nantasket Beach by sand nourishment," Larsen said. In addition, as a separate non-Federal action, the MDC intends to provide sand nourishment on about 1,400 feet of their Nantasket Beach Reservation north of the Federal project area.

Also, as a separate project, the MDC proposes to repair the existing seawall at the MDC Reservation. Sand nourishment and the seawall repair will be completed in different phases, but as close to each other in time as possible.

Storm waves and winds pose a potential flood hazard to the MDC facilities and commercial development in the backshore. The project would provide protection for the sea wall and reduce the risk of flooding in this area.

The recommended Federal project is construction of a minimum 50-foot wide sand fill beach seaward of the 5,400-foot long sea wall, raised to an elevation of 12 feet National Geodetic Vertical Datum (NGVD), sloping to the existing beach at a maximum slope of 1 foot on vertical to 15 feet horizontal and renourishment to periodically restore the geometric configuration and level of protection of the plan.

"In our environmental review, it is the most technically and economically feasible, environmentally and culturally acceptable project for reducing storm damages from flooding and erosion at Nantasket Beach," Larsen said.

Public comments on the proposed alternative were accepted by the Corps of Engineers through April 12, 2003.

The plan was developed with consideration of the overall public interest, including engineering and economic feasibility and environmental, cultural, and social effects. "It is the best implementable alternative to meet the objectives of the investigation," Larsen said. Sources of sand are being investigated for this project include land-based sources and aquatic sources. Clean sand will be deposited on the beach by mechanical equipment.

An Environmental Assessment and Finding of No Significant Impact have been prepared for this coastal storm damage reduction project. Impacts to the area are expected to be minor and temporary.

No impacts to threatened, endangered, or rare species are expected. Also, no cultural resource impacts have been identified in the project area.

"Construction work will not be done on the beach when shellfish and other benthic organisms are spawning that could potentially be affected by the proposed work in the year funds are available," Larsen said. The feasibility investigation was conducted under the authority of Section 103 of the 1962 River and Harbor Act, as amended. No work will be performed until certification has been received from the Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection, as required under Section 401 of the Clean Water Act of 1977.

The proposed work is being coordinated with the following Federal, State and local agencies: the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency; the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service; the U.S. National Marine Fisheries Service; the Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection – Division of Water Pollution Control, Division of Marine Fisheries and Division of Wetlands and Waterways; the Massachusetts Executive Office of Environmental Affairs – Coastal Zone Management Office and Massachusetts Environmental Policy Office; the Massachusetts Historical Commission; the Hull Conservation Commission; and the Federal Emergency Management Agency.

Congratulations...

…to **Tom Wisnauckas**, Park Ranger, Knightville Dam and Littleville Lake and his wife, **Janine**, on the birth of their daughter, **Katarzyna Wisnauckas**, April 2. Katarzyna is the couple's first child.

...to **Duban Montoya**, Engineering/ Planning, and his wife, **Denise**, on the birth of their daughter, **Ruby Isabella**, April 22. Ruby joins her sister, **Sophia**, in the family circle.

… to **Marie Pinede**, Chief Internal Review Office, who has been selected as the Employee of the Month for March. She received the award for her 20 years of professionalism.

…to Summer Hire Program Team of **Susan Rodkey and Amal Guirguis** for being selected for the WE Committee Team of the Month for March.

They received the honor for processing 130 Fiscal Year 2002 summer hires.

…to **Cathy Leblanc**, Programs and Project Management Division, who was named as the WE Committee's April Employee of the Month of April. She received the honor for using her vast knowledge of CEFMS to help co-workers.

…to the Pittsfield Project Delivery Team for being selected as the WE Committee's April Team of the Month. Team Members include: **K.C. Mitkevicius, Project Manager, John Winmill, Raymond Goff, Darrell Moore, Charles Marney, Robert Leitch, Jonathan Kullberg, Mark Geib, Joseph Collucci, Deborah Gabrielson, Mark Vance, John Yen, John Perry, Mike Penko, Mary Dunn, Margaret Lorenzo, Mark Koenig, Dr. Ian Osgerby, Peter Hugh, Rachel Raposa, Anna Peine, Sheila Winston-Vincuilla, Norm Krause, Kerry LeBlanc, Jim Leary, Molly McCabe, Greg Billings, Ken Bouchard, Cliff Opdyke, and Paul Young.** The team was selected for their efforts in reducing the cost of the Pittsfield Project by millions.

…to **Winhall Brook Campground/ Ball Mountain Lake** for making Reserve America's top 100 campground list. ReserveAmerica, a leading access point for outdoor recreation, released its first annual "Top 100 Family Campgrounds" listing from across the U.S.

The list was developed in part by park rangers, regional park management and campers who write testimonials, rate campgrounds and provide feedback throughout the year.

Additional Cape Cod Canal Railroad Bridge team members...

In the March issue of the Yankee Engineer, a number of names involved in the Cape Cod Rail Road Bridge project were listed in Samantha Mirabella's article.

The provided list only a few members of this extensive team. Other Corps team members involved in the two phases of the project who were not listed in the original article are Dave Descoteaux, Engineering Technical Lead; Michael Keegan, Project Manager; Rachael Raposa, Contract Specialist; Rick Casano, Mechanical/Electrical and Quality Assurance Expert; George Norton, Specification Engineer; Deborah Gabrielson, Mechanical Engineer; Tom Ayau, Electrical Engineer; Chris Lindsay, Cost Estimator; Ted Frazzetta, Project Engineer; Jennifer Flanagan, Structural Engineer; and Fran Donovan, Chief, Cape Cod Canal Office.

Welcome

David Cole, Eng/Plng
Stephen Dunbar, Eng/Plng
Maruti Wagle, Eng/Plng
Steven Waite, Contracting
Robert Zwahlen, Eng/Plng

Preventing barbecue fires

The rising New England temperatures signal the start of the barbecue season. The Food Safety and Inspection Agency of the U.S. Department of Agriculture offers these tips to reduce the risk of fire flare-ups while barbecuing:

1. Remove visible fat from raw meat.
2. Pre-cook the meat in a microwave immediately before grilling to remove some of the fat and juices that can drop onto the coals.
3. Move coals to the sides and cook meats in the center of the grill, not directly over the coals. *(Ideas Unlimited)*

Safety at the grocery store

Don't put heavy items such as large cans or glass containers, in the seat of the grocery cart when you shop. They can roll out as you push the cart, possibly leading to painful injuries like broken toes or cuts from glass shards. *(Ideas Unlimited)*

Dredging up the past . . .

Park Ranger Bob Hanacek entertains and teaches children during an Interpretive Program on reptiles at Hop Brook Lake in this photo dated circa Summer 1982. Bob is now the Merrimack River Basin Manager.

Public Affairs Office
New England District
U.S. Army Corps of Engineers
696 Virginia Road
Concord, MA 01742-2751
Meter Code 40

Presorted Standard
U.S. Postage
Paid
Concord, MA
Permit No. 494